

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## SAVE OUR SEAS 2.0 ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. HALEY M. STEVENS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 1, 2020*

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 1982, Save Our Seas 2.0, and to commend my colleagues for their work to resolve the serious issues our country and our world have with marine debris.

For over 70 years, plastic has evolved to be invaluable in many applications. It's used as a high-performance material for medical devices and in safety components for automobiles. Plastic is also convenient. It's a mainstay in American households from our toothbrushes to food storage to shampoo and detergent bottles. Global plastic production increased from 2 million tons per year in 1950 to 400 million tons annually in recent years.

What happens to all of this discarded plastic is why I am speaking out in support of this legislation today. We can no longer deny that we face a plastic waste crisis. There are plenty of reasons for why and how we got here; however, a major factor is because we failed as a nation to invest in domestic recycling infrastructure and policies to account for the growing demand for plastic. As a result, today, the U.S. recycles just 9 percent of its plastic waste.

At least 8 million tons of plastic end up in our oceans and Great Lakes every year and make up 80 percent of all marine debris from surface waters to deep-sea sediments. This marine debris ends up being ingested or entangled by marine life, from whales to sea birds, causing severe injuries and death.

In addition to the harm it causes our marine ecosystem, plastic debris also endangers our human health, coastal tourism, and threatens our food safety. This important bill works to improve the domestic response to marine debris, incentivize international engagement on marine debris, and strengthen domestic waste management infrastructure to prevent the creation of new marine debris.

This crisis will not be solved by only one bill or another. We need to work together as a Congress on bicameral, bipartisan solutions that have the potential to create jobs, develop supply chains, and meet environmental needs.

This summer, I was proud to introduce the bipartisan Plastic Waste Reduction and Recycling Act which directs the establishment of a plastic waste reduction and recycling research and development program to develop a world-leading U.S. industry in advanced plastics recycling technologies, and unleash the innovative potential of our nation to address our plastic waste crisis and generate greater value from the plastics we do produce.

I would like to congratulate my colleagues, Congresswoman SUZANNE BONAMICI, Congressman DON YOUNG, Senator DAN SULLIVAN, and Senator SHELDON WHITEHOUSE, on the passage of this historic bill, and I look forward

to working with them and our colleagues on powerful solutions to solve our plastic waste crisis.

## HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF NIXON GEAR

**HON. JOHN KATKO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 9, 2020*

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 100th Anniversary of Nixon Gear, a division of Gear Motions Inc., located in Syracuse, New York. Since its inception, Nixon Gear has consistently grown and adapted to changing times. Today, Nixon Gear has an impeccable reputation, provides good-paying jobs for Central New Yorkers, and serves as one of the premier custom gear manufacturers in the United States.

In 1920, George Nixon founded Nixon Broach and Tool Company with the intention of selling special machining and tooling. As operations began focusing on gear manufacturing, in 1924 the company changed its name to Nixon Gear. In 1969, with plastics and electronics replacing metal gears, Nixon Gear adapted again, buying its first gear grinding machine to produce these new products. In 1977, Nixon Gear was purchased by Gear Motions, allowing the company to transform into a precision gear grinding operation.

After years of sustained growth and expansion, Nixon Gear outgrew its facility, and in 1992 moved into a 45,000 square foot, state-of-the-art building on Milton Avenue in Syracuse. The move empowered Nixon Gear to improve its efficiency, and grow its operations, and invest in new precision gear grinding.

Over the years, Nixon Gear has evolved internally as well. The company has gone through changes in ownership, and today is led by Dean Burrows, President of Nixon Gear and Gear Motions. In 2010, Gear Motions became a 100% Employee Owned Company, allowing its employees to have a larger role in the direction of the business.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in honoring the 100th Anniversary of Nixon Gear. By continuing to evolve and grow, Nixon Gear today is an industry leader and a vital part of Central New York's local economy.

## RECOGNIZING CHARLES AND MADDIE FINKENBINDER

**HON. J. FRENCH HILL**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 9, 2020*

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize eight-year-old Maddie Finkenbinder and her father, Charles, who are working hard to provide reusable water bottles

to students across Conway, AR elementary schools.

When water fountains were disabled to stop the spread of the coronavirus in schools, Maddie went straight to her jewelry box to collect all her allowance and gave it to her father to purchase water bottles for her classmates.

Since then, their work has grown, providing water bottles to five elementary schools in Conway, and the educators and administrators of Conway Public Schools are thankful. Charles and Maddie show the true heart of CPSD and the Conway community.

I'd like to thank the Finkenbinders for their honorable work and encourage them to keep looking out for their neighbor.

## HONORING SHELLEY MCKITTRICK

**HON. JASON CROW**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 9, 2020*

Mr. CROW. Madam Speaker, it is my honor today to recognize the accomplishments of Ms. Shelley McKittrick and to congratulate her on her retirement.

Throughout her career, Ms. McKittrick has dedicated herself to public service and has been a tireless advocate for those experiencing homelessness and housing instability. She served as the City of Aurora's Homelessness Program Director and led a pathway for prioritizing the need for homelessness and housing instability solutions. In her role, she was instrumental to the opening of the Aurora Day Resource Center providing 150 people per day with meals, showers, counseling services, and other resources. She also served as the President of the Metro Denver Homeless Initiative for a year and continues to hold a seat on the Board.

She also led the way for Aurora's Point in Time count, an annual U.S. Housing and Urban Development effort to account for the number of people in the nation experiencing homelessness. Her work not only gave housing to those directly impacted by homelessness in Aurora, but also strengthened numerous programs to help prioritize a change in how housing instability is handled.

During an interview in 2016 when Ms. McKittrick had just started her work in Aurora, she said homelessness is, "a large problem that has to be broken down into digestible, attackable pieces. And little by little . . . we can do this."

In the 4 years she was with Aurora and through countless hours of meaningful work, Ms. McKittrick proved her statement from 2016 true and showed our city that we can make efforts to beat homelessness. I wish her luck in this new chapter of her life and thank her greatly for the care and dedication she provided our community.

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